

# How a Partner Collaboration Determined an Effective Multifaceted Translation Approach

FINNISH LOCALIZATION CASE STUDY – SUMMARY

## The Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development, Third Edition

(Bayley-III; Bayley, 2006) is a leading assessment tool designed to measure the developmental status of young children, ages 1-42 months. Over the past decade, the Bayley Scales have been referenced as an endpoint in the protocols of 145 clinical trials (Citeline, 2024). Of those trials, **6.21% have identified sites in the Finno-Ugric countries** of Estonia, Finland, and Hungary.

### Problem

Finno-Ugric languages lack in comparability to English as it relates to gendered pronouns, possessive pronouns, and verb tense forms. This creates a comprehensive translatability assessment with complex linguistic challenges for clinical outcome assessments (COAs).

In 2023 Pearson and Lionbridge executed a project that proved challenging for 1 of 13 project target languages: **Finnish – Finland (fiFI)**.

LOCATION	ORIGINAL SOURCE	UPDATED SOURCE	REASON FOR CHANGE
p.16 Record Form	37. Understands Pronouns (They, She, He)	37. Understands singular and plural personal pronouns They, He/She	This distinction between genders (They, She, He) is not possible to express in Finnish with pronouns. The only way would be to use a genitive form of a noun ('hers' → 'girls' = "tytön"; 'his' → 'boys' = "pojan", etc.) The proposed solution is to update these 2 options: They and He/She

How can an interdisciplinary team develop a translation that does not compromise instrument validity, maintains international reach, and continues to preserve the nuances and cultural context of the Finnish language?

### Solution

Hungarian was identified as a suitable pivot language due to its shared linguistic features with Finnish.

**The customized translation process applied included:**

**Linguistic Validation → Clinical Review → Intermediate (Back) Translation from Hungarian (Hungary)**

The Hungarian translation is internationally published. Pearson Clinical Assessments international publication(s) are developed in accordance with the caliber defined by the International Test Commission (ITC) Guidelines for Translating and Adapting Tests (2017). The publication has sustained a rigorous review of the equivalence of the assessment in the second language and culture and undergone other necessary validity studies when applicable (ITS, 2017). Therefore, the existing Hungarian translation of the Bayley-III offered alternative language forms that effectively replaced the original English constructs while maintaining the instrument's ability to measure the intended outcomes.

The use of an intermediary language [Hungarian – Hungary (huHU)] for back-translation illustrates the **innovative and flexible approach** towards translation by Lionbridge. Using the translation to create the Finnish – Finland (fiFI) version provided an additional quality review—allowing Lionbridge to both audit and refine the translation from another linguistic perspective. This confirmed that the Finnish-Finland (fiFI) version of Bayley-III, accurately represented the original assessment.

**Pearson** has benefited from the positive impact of having **Lionbridge** as a *partnered* Language Services Provider (LSP) by successfully overcoming a complex linguistic challenge (Finnish localization of Bayley-III) while preserving instrument validity and maintaining inclusivity to the clinical trials research community.

**Additional benefits of having an LSP partner consists of:**

- **Direct Communication**  
Reduces potential misinterpretation and allows for immediate access to source
- **Expert Insights**  
Subject Matter Expert (SME) insights enhance accuracy and ensure conceptual integrity
- **Accelerated Approvals**  
Real-time feedback, expedited processes, valuable time savings
- **Increased Trust**  
A collaborative environment allows for transparency

**Case Study Application:**

- **Implications for Global Trials**  
Features strategies to overcoming language barriers while ensuring valid, reliable data across different populations and languages.
- **Impact on Validity**  
Localization has a direct impact on the validity of the assessment. For instance, a mistranslated item could lead to inaccurate scoring if not addressed.
- **Improving Global Standards**  
Serves as a model of how to adapt widely used assessments for different languages and cultures.

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